

JANUARY 28, 1845.

Read, and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs

Mr. H. DODGE, on leave, introduced the following bill :

## **A BILL**

For the payment of certain arrearages equitably due to the Stockbridge nation of Indians, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*  
2   *of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That*  
3   the Secretary of the Treasury cause to be paid, out of any money  
4   in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, to the Stockbridge  
5   nation of Indians, now residing in Wisconsin, and to the Mun-  
6   sees, (to each ratably in proportion to their population,) the sum  
7   of one thousand dollars per annum for each and every year, for  
8   the term of twenty years from and after this date, in full of all  
9   claim, equitable or otherwise, of said Stockbridge and Munsee  
10   nations, or either of them, upon the United States, or upon the  
11   Delawares, or any other nation of Indians, for lands of which  
12   the said Stockbridges or Munsees have been deprived by the  
13   act or consent of the United States; as well the lands alleged to  
14   have been acquired by them of the Miami Indians, on White  
15   river, in the State of Indiana, as the lands in Wisconsin, alleged  
16   to have been acquired by them, in conjunction with other In-  
17   dian tribes, of the Winnebagoes and Menomonies, at two several

18 treaties or contracts concluded in the years one thousand eight  
19 hundred and twenty-one, and one thousand eight hundred and  
20 twenty-two.

1       SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That nothing in the fore-  
2 going section shall impair the obligation of the United States to  
3 pay to said Indians all annuities, and to do any other act for which  
4 they are bound by existing treaties. And the Secretary of War  
5 is hereby directed to pay to said Stockbridge and Munsee tribes  
6 all unpaid arrears of interest on the fund of six thousand dollars  
7 directed to be invested for their benefit, as a permanent school  
8 fund, by the fourth article of the treaty made between the  
9 United States and those tribes, on the third of September, one  
10 thousand eight hundred and thirty-nine, and ratified on the six-  
11 teenth day of May following. The provisions of this and the  
12 foregoing section shall be without prejudice to any arrangement  
13 heretofore made by the Secretary of War to equalize the pay-  
14 ments heretofore made, and hereafter to be made, between said  
15 tribes and the other tribes of New York Indians.

1       SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the Governor of  
2 the Territory of Wisconsin shall cause a registry to be made  
3 of the names of such individuals of the Stockbridge tribe of  
4 Indians residing in Wisconsin as may object to become citi-  
5 zens of the United States under the provisions of an act enti-  
6 tled "An act for the relief of the Stockbridge tribe of Indians  
7 in the Territory of Wisconsin," approved March third, one

8 thousand eight hundred and forty-three; and the names of  
9 infants may be registered for that purpose by their parent,  
10 guardian, or next friend, and of *femes covert* by their husbands.  
11 And, as to all persons so registered, so much of the provisions  
12 of said act as declares the Stockbridge tribe of Indians, and each  
13 and every of them, to be citizens of the United States, or confers  
14 upon them the privileges or imposes the burdens of such citizen-  
15 ship, shall be inapplicable and of no force and effect: *Provided*,  
16 That their names be so registered within the period of eight  
17 months from and after the passage of this act. The said gov-  
18 ernor of Wisconsin shall, when said registry is completed, trans-  
19 mit the same to the Secretary of War, to be by him filed and  
20 recorded.

1       SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That for the purpose  
2 of receiving the payments provided by this act, as well as all  
3 other payments due said Stockbridges by any treaty, the party  
4 who may have become and may remain citizens of the United  
5 States under the provisions of the above-recited act, shall annu-  
6 ally or biennially elect a trustee to receive and disburse the  
7 same among the individuals and families of said party; and the  
8 party remaining Indians shall, in like manner, elect a trustee for  
9 a like disbursement among the individuals and families of their  
10 party: which elections shall be conducted under the direction  
11 of the Secretary of War, to whom the names of such trustees  
12 shall be reported by the sub-agent of said tribe. Nothing in the

13 act of March third, one thousand eight hundred and forty-three,  
14 above recited, shall be deemed to invalidate the right of said  
15 Stockbridge tribe, or any individuals thereof, to have and receive  
16 all moneys or other thing secured to be paid and done to them  
17 by any former treaty; and all annuities or sums of interest  
18 money, the payment of which has been suspended in consequence  
19 of the passage of said act, shall be paid to them under the pro-  
20 visions of the proper treaty and of this act.